SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
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SEPT 86
by ALAN MOORE
CURT SWAN
and KURT
SCHAFFENBERGER
DAILY PLANET
GOOD-BYE, SUPERMAN! WE'LL MISS YOU!
WHO watches the WATCHMEN?

MORE COFFEE, TIM? INTERVIEWS ALWAYS MAKE ME SO DRY, WHAT WITH ME DOING ALL THE TALKING.
YOU MUST BE VERY BORED
OH, NO! NO, IT'S JUST WHAT THE PLANET'S MEMORIAL EDITION NEEDS.
I'M JUST CHECKING WHERE WE'D GOT TO...SUPERMAN'S OLD ENEMIES HAD STARTED RETURNING WITH A VENGEANCE AND HE'D TAKEN EVERY-ONE TO HIS FORTRESS, FOR, SAFETY.
THAT'S RIGHT. ME, LANA, JIMMY, PERRY AND ALICE WHITE...ALL HIS FRIENDS. WE WERE ALL...
SAY, IZZAT COFFEE I SMELL BREWIN' THROUGH HERE?
HA HA! BEST DARN NOSE FOR COFFEE IN THE WHOLE OF PITTSDALE. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIX IT YOURSELF HON. I'M BUSY BEING A CELEBRITY.
TIM, THIS IS MY HUSBAND, JORDAN.
JORDY, THIS IS TIM CRANE, FROM THE PLANET.
OH. HI.
UHH...I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME INTERVIEWING YOUR WIFE ABOUT, WELL, ABOUT...
ABOUT HER EX? NAH! I CAN LIVE WITH IT. HE WEREN'T NOTHIN' SPECIAL. US ORDINARY WORKIN' GLOBS, SON...WE'RE THE REAL HEROES.
NOW, JORDY, DON'T YOU GET STARTED IN ON THAT! YOU JUST FIX YOUR COFFEE THEN GO AND CHECK THAT JONATHAN'S STILL ASLEEP.
UH...YOU WERE ALL UP IN THE ARCTIC, WITH SUPERMAN...
WHERE HAD I GOT TO, TIM?

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"THAT'S RIGHT... WE STOOD ON A BALCONY AND WATCHED AS HE DESTROYED THE GOLDEN KEY. I THINK THAT'S WHEN WE FIRST REALIZED THAT HE WAS PREPARING FOR A SIEGE.
"THE SIEGE OF THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...
"SUPERMAN'S LAST STAND.

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE MAN OF TOMORROW?"

CONCLUDING THE TWO-PART *IMAGINARY STORY* BEGUN IN *SUPERMAN* #423.

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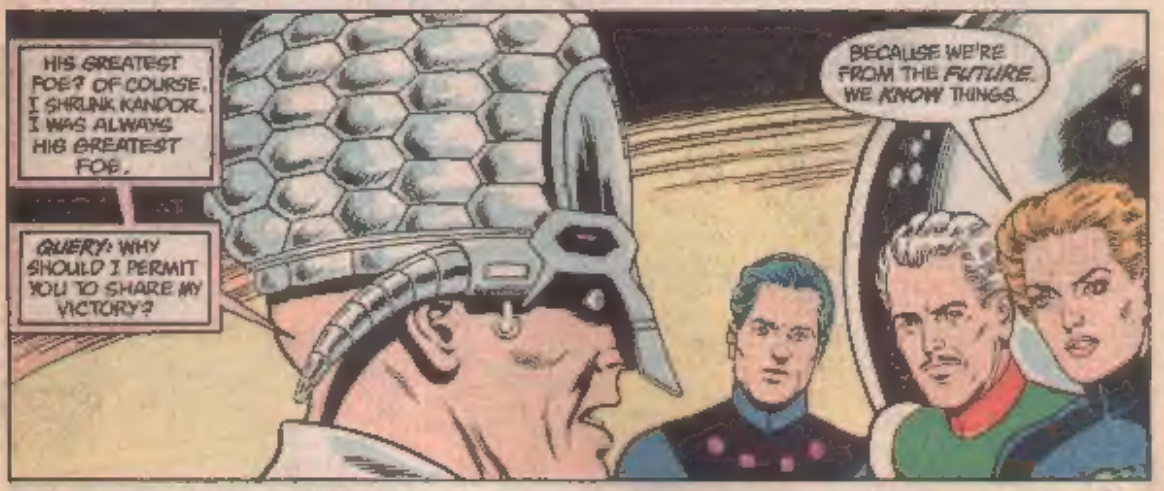
"ALL THAT DAY, IN THE FORTRESS, PERRY AND ALICE KEPT BICKERING. EVERYBODY WAS SO TENSE.
"WE WERE SCARED. WE KNEW THAT SOMETHING WAS BEARING DOWN ON US, BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT...
"...AND EVEN IF WE HAD KNOWN, WE WOULDN'T HAVE FELT ANY BETTER."
ASSESSMENT: THE KRYPTONIAN HAS GONE TO GROUND. I MUST CONSIDER OUR NEXT MOVE.
WHAT'S TO CONSIDER? I WANT MY HANDS AROUND HIS THROAT! I WANT TO WATCH HIM TURN GREEN AND DIE!
YOU WILL DO AS I COMMAND, KRYPTONITE MAN. WITH LUTHOR'S MIND AT MY DISPOSAL, MY INTELLECT IS SUPREME. I SHALL DEVISE A PLAN COVERING ALL EVENTUALITIES.
A-ALL EVENTUALITIES, BRAINIAC?
EVEN THAT ONE?
ALERT. PROBABILITY OF ATTACK: 74.012 PERCENT...
HOLD YOUR FIRE, LUTHOR. WE COME AS ALLIES TO JOIN YOU IN THE ASSURED AND PREDESTINED SLAUGHTER OF SUPERMAN.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE FUTURE, LUTHOR? DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS?
MEKT, WAIT...

I--I'M SCANNING LUTHOR'S MIND... IT'S BEING DOMINATED BY SOMETHING COLD, EMOTIONLESS...
ON HIS HEAD... IS THAT SOME SORT OF HELMET, OR...?
LEX LUTHOR IS NOW MERELY THE VESSEL OF BRAINIAC.
QUERY: WHAT MANNER OF BEINGS ARE YOU?

W-WE ARE SATURN WOMAN, LIGHTNING LORD, AND COSMIC KING, FROM THE 30TH CENTURY...
ACCORDING TO LEGEND, DURING THESE DAYS, SUPERMAN MET HIS GREATEST FOE IN BATTLE AND WAS NO MORE.
CERTAIN OF VICTORY, WE'VE COME TO PARTICIPATE.


HIS GREATEST FOE? OF COURSE. I SHRINK KANDOR. I WAS ALWAYS HIS GREATEST FOE.
QUERY: WHY SHOULD I PERMIT YOU TO SHARE MY VICTORY?
BECAUSE WE'RE FROM THE FUTURE. WE KNOW THINGS.

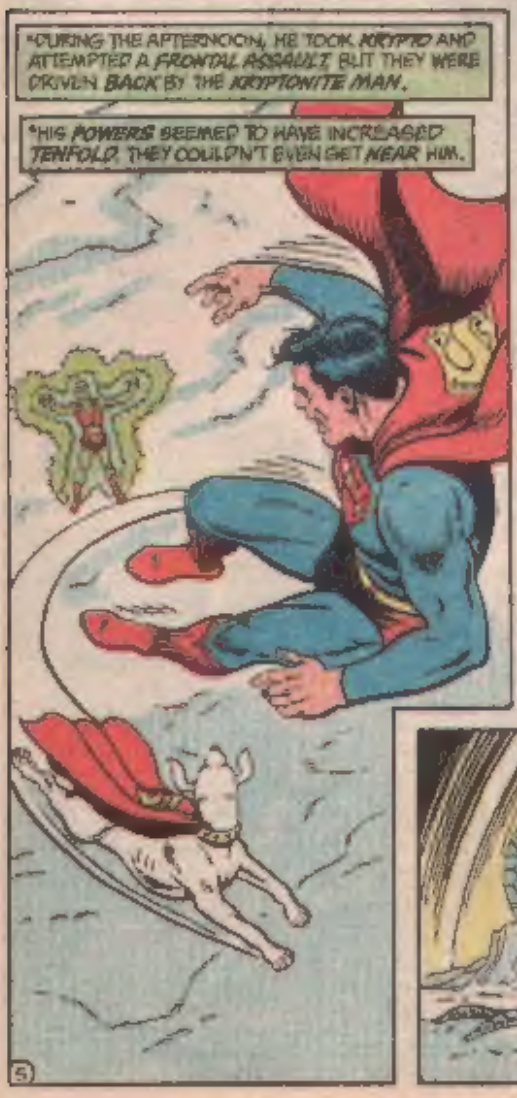
FOR EXAMPLE, IT'S SAID THAT DURING SUPERMAN'S LAST DAYS, ALL OF EARTH'S CHAMPIONS FLOCKED TO HELP HIM...
THAT IS LOGICAL. THIS WORLD'S OTHER SUPER-HUMANS ARE CERTAIN TO INTERFERE.
I SHALL ERECT AN IMPENETRABLE FORCE-SCREEN IMMEDIATELY.

FOR RESISTING MY WILL; FOR DESTROYING MY BODY, FOR THESE AFFRONTS SHALL THE KRYPTONIAN KNOW THE REVENGE OF BRAINIAC...
...AND NONE SHALL HELP HIM.
"WHEN THE FORTRESS' SENSORS REGISTERED BRAINIAC'S FORCE-SCREEN, WE KNEW IT HAD BEGUN.

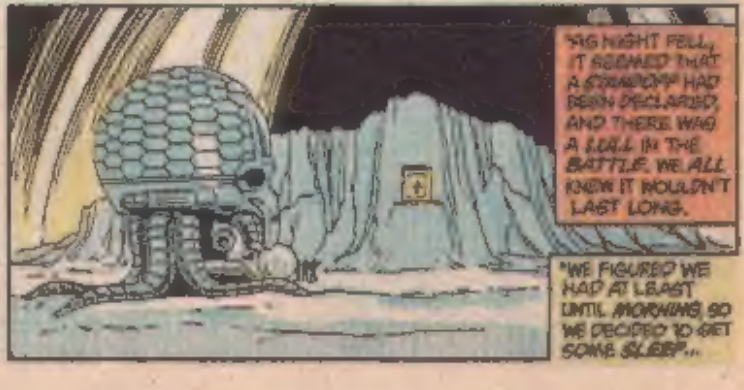
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

"THE SCREEN TOOK THE FORM OF A GIANT BUBBLE, MORE THAN TWO MILES ACROSS. NOTHING COULD GET IN. NOTHING COULD GET OUT.

"AROUND MOON, THE VILLAINS BEGAN FIRING ON THE FORTRESS USING WEAPONS FROM BRAINIAC'S SHIP.
"SUPERMAN DESTROYED MOST OF THE DEVICES FROM LONG RANGE, USING HEAT VISION BUT THE FORCE-SCREEN GENERATOR WAS TOO WELL SHIELDED.


"DURING THE AFTERNOON, HE TOOK KRYPTO AND ATTEMPTED A FRONTAL ASSAULT BUT THEY WERE DRIVEN BACK BY THE KRYPTONITE MAN.
"HIS POWERS SEEMED TO HAVE INCREASED TENFOLD. THEY COULDN'T EVEN GET NEAR HIM.

"WITH TWILIGHT, OTHER HEROES BEGAN ARRIVING OUTSIDE THE BARRIER, THOSE THAT WERE HIS FRIENDS...
"THOSE THAT WERE ALMOST HIS RIVALS...
"...THOSE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIS LOVERS. IT DIDN'T MATTER. NONE OF THEM COULD PENETRATE IT.


"AS NIGHT FELL, IT SEEMED THAT A STANDOFF HAD BEEN DECLARED, AND THERE WAS A LULL IN THE BATTLE. WE ALL KNEW IT WOULDN'T LAST LONG.
"WE FIGURED WE HAD AT LEAST UNTIL MORNING, SO WE DECIDED TO GET SOME SLEEP...

"...OR AT LEAST, SOME OF US DID.
PERRY? ARE YOU AWAKE?
I WONDERED IF WE COULD TALK FOR A WHILE.
WELL, SURE. COME ON IN.
I COULD USE SOME CONVERSATION MYSELF. BEATS SITTING HERE THINKING ABOUT DOOM AND DIVORCE.
I'M SORRY, BEING COOPED UP HERE MUST BE A STRAIN FOR YOU AND ALICE.
YEAH, I GUESS SO. I DON'T KNOW... WE'VE BOTH GOT GOOD REASON TO BE AT LOGGERHEADS, BUT...
WELL, SITTING HERE WITH DEATH WAITING OUTSIDE MAKES ME SEE THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE SOMEHOW...
ME, TOO.
YOU?
YES, ME, PERRY, I'M SCARED. I THINK I'M GOING TO DIE, AND THERE'S SO MUCH IN MY LIFE I HAVE TO GET STRAIGHT...
...LIKE ME AND LOIS. LIKE ME AND LANA.
YOU SEE, I'VE MESSED UP BOTH THEIR LIVES, HAVEN'T I?
THEY'VE WASTED THEIR LOVE ON ME, WHILE I COULDN'T LET MYSELF LOVE EITHER OF THEM THE WAY THEY DESERVED.
I WISH I'D EXPLAINED.
I WISH I HADN'T BEEN SUCH A COWARD.
*WHY IS IT THAT THE NOBLEST PEOPLE ARE THE ONES MOST TROUBLED BY CONSCIENCE? I DON'T KNOW...
DARKSEID WAR
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"...BUT SUPERMAN AND PERRY WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO COULDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT."
LANA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?
WELL, IF THAT FLASK IN YOUR HAND'S WHAT I THINK IT IS, I'M DOING THE SAME THING AS YOU. I'M SICK OF SITTING AROUND. I WANT TO HELP HIM.
THAT'S THE ELASTIC LAD SERUM, ISN'T IT?
YES. I KNEW HE KEPT A SAMPLE IN HIS TROPHY ROOM ANNEX, SO I CAME TO FIND IT.
ALL THESE YEARS, THEY'VE CALLED ME "SUPERMAN'S FRIEND." I FIGURE HERE'S WHERE I START PAYING FOR THE PRIVILEGE.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
ELASTIC LAD SERUM
I HAD THE SAME IDEA. I REMEMBER YEARS AGO, THERE WERE TIMES WE GAINED SUPER-POWERS TEMPORARILY. I REMEMBER THERE WAS THIS LAKE THAT LOIS AND I BATHED IN...
"MAGIC" LAKE WATER (REMARKABLE UNIDENTIFIED RADIATION SOURCE)
HEY...LOOK! HERE'S A CASE OF SOUVENIR COSTUMES!
THEN WE'RE IN LUCK!
TURN YOUR BACK, RED, WHILE I TAKE A QUICK DIP.
OH.
OH, THE FEELING. I REMEMBER NOW... MY SKIN, TINGLING AS IT GETS HARDER... MY SENSES EXPANDING... X-RAY VISION... MICROSCOPIC VISION...
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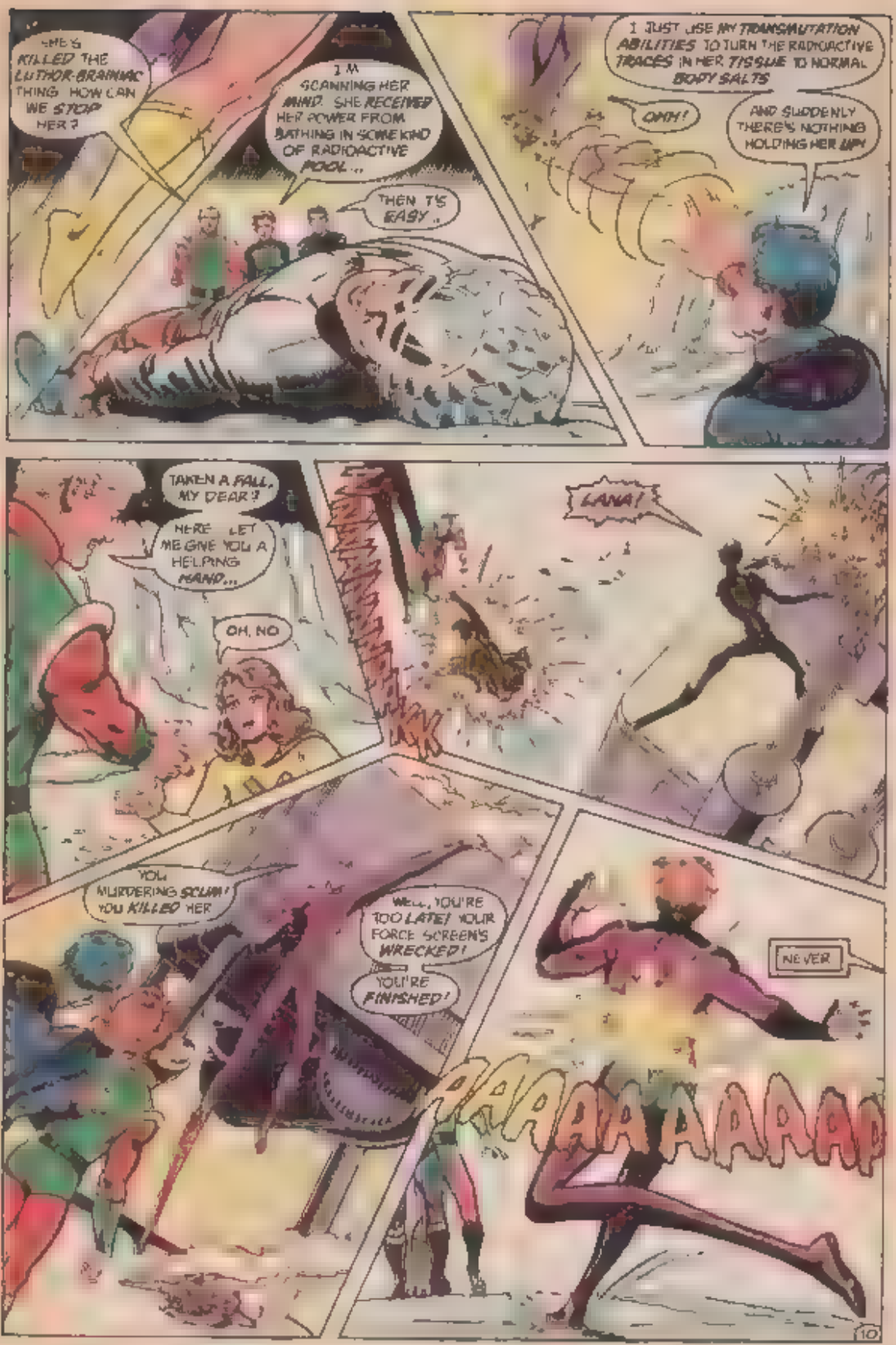
"...SUPER-HEARING..."
YOU SEE, BACK WHEN I WAS SUPERBOY, LANA WAS THE ONLY GIRL I LOVED.
SHE STILL REPRESENTS SMALLVILLE TO ME, THAT PART OF MY LIFE, AND BECAUSE OF THAT I COULD NEVER CAST HER ASIDE.
...BUT SINCE I'VE GROWN AND BECOME A MAN, THERE'S ONLY EVER BEEN ONE WOMAN FOR ME.
LOIS, BEAUTIFUL LOIS.
I LOVE HER, PERRY, DEAR GOD, I LOVE HER SO MUCH...
"...BUT I CAN'T TELL HER WITHOUT HURTING LANA. I'D NEVER HURT LANA, SO I JUST WALK AROUND WITH THIS SECRET, THIS WEIGHT IN MY HEART...
"...AND I'LL CARRY IT WITH ME TO MY GRAVE..
"...AND NEITHER OF THEM WILL EVER KNOW.
THERE. ARE YOU READY YET, LANA?
LANA? IS ANYTHING WRONG?
WRONG? NO. NO, WHY SHOULD ANYTHING BE WRONG?
I'M READY NOW. LET'S GET OUT THERE, WRECK THAT FORCE-SCREEN, AND GET HIM OUT OF THIS MESS. WE'RE ONLY SECOND STRINGERS, JIMMY, BUT WE'LL SHOW 'EM...
NOBODY LOVED HIM BETTER THAN LIS.
NOBODY!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

"HAVING ASSUMED THAT THE KRYPTONITE MAN WOULD KEEP SUPERMAN AT A DISTANCE, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT TOOK EVEN BRAINIAC BY SURPRISE..."
SIZZLE
AAOW! HE'S ATTACKING US! I'LL...
YOU'LL WHAT, YOU POISONOUS LITTLE CRUD?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT KRYPTONITE?
BRAINIAC! HELP ME!
NOBODY'S GOING TO HELP YOU. NOBODY'S GOING TO HELP ANY OF YOU!
TAKE OUT THE GENERATOR, JIMMY, WHILE I DEAL WITH THEIR LEADER.
UNNGH!
FOOLISH WOMAN. MY VICTORY IS PREDETERMINED. YOU SERVE ONLY TO HASTEN YOUR OWN DOOM.
LUTHOR? WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THAT? AND... AND ON YOUR HEAD. WHAT'S...?
LUHH... LAA-NAA... BRUHH... BRAINIAC... HUHH HEE'S... GOT... ME.
KILL ME.
KUHH KILL MEE... LANA... PLEASE...
LUTHOR, BE SILENT. I COMMAND YOU...
LEX?
LUH... LANA... DO IT NOW... PUH... PLEASE DO IT NOW...
CHRAK


SHE'S KILLED THE LUTHOR-BRAINIAC THING. HOW CAN WE STOP HER?
I'M SCANNING HER MIND. SHE RECEIVED HER POWER FROM BATHING IN SOME KIND OF RADIOACTIVE POOL...
THEN IT'S EASY.
I JUST USE MY TRANSMUTATION ABILITIES TO TURN THE RADIOACTIVE TRACES IN HER TISSUE TO NORMAL BODY SALTS
OHH!
AND SUDDENLY THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING HER UP!
TAKEN A FALL, MY DEAR?
HERE LET ME GIVE YOU A HELPING HAND...
OH, NO
LANA!
YOU MURDERING SCUM! YOU KILLED HER
WELL, YOU'RE TOO LATE! YOUR FORCE SCREEN'S WRECKED!
YOU'RE FINISHED!
NEVER
AAAAAAAAAAAP
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HE'S DEAD
BUT WHO ?
WHO.
DO YOU.
SUPPOSE ?
I AM BRAINIAC REDUCER OF KANDOR AND HIS GREATEST FOE
MY VICTORY IS PREORDAINED. DO YOU THINK THAT I WOULD LET THE DEATH OF THIS BODY... STAND IN ITS WAY?
OH MERCIFUL CREATOR...
LUTHOR'S NERVES HIS MUSCLES ARE INTACT I CAN MANIPULATE THEM...
AT LEAST FOR LONG ENOUGH TO ENSURE SUPERMAN'S DESTRUCTION
BRAINIAC'S SOMETHING'S WRONG. IF OLSEN WRECKED THE GENERATOR WHY HASN'T THE FORCE-SCREEN COLLAPSED?
"ANALYSIS YOU ARE CORRECT EARTH'S CHAMPIONS REMAIN OUTSIDE SOME UNKNOWN FORCE MAINTAINS THE SHIELD
"PERHAPS PERHAPS IT IS DESTINY. IN ANY EVENTUALITY WE MUST MAKE USE OF IT WHILE THIS FLUKE SITUATION ENDURES."
PREPARE FOR A NUCLEAR STRIKE
OUR FINAL ASSAULT BEGINS

"THE EXPLOSION, UNBELIEVABLY, DIDN'T BRING DOWN THE WHOLE FORTRESS. IT JUST PUNCHED AN UGLY, GAPING HOLE IN ONE SIDE...
"BUT THAT WAS ENOUGH. WE'D BEEN BREACHED.
"THE SLEEPING QUARTERS WERE SHIELDED BY METERS OF SOLID ROCK. BUT THE SHOCK WAVE WAS LIKE THE WORST EARTHQUAKE YOU CAN IMAGINE."
ALICE! LOOK OUT!
KRRUTTTUNCH
OH! OHN!
P-PERRY? YOU... I
ALICE, IT DOESN'T MATTER. THEY'RE DESTROYING THE FORTRESS AND I DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT LONG LEFT.
I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I'M SORRY. AND THAT I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.
PERRY WOULD
W-WOULD YOU TAKE ME TO MY ROOM. PERHAPS... PERHAPS WE'LL HAVE TIME TO MAKE UP FOR BEING SO STUPID.
"TIME TO SECURE THE FORTRESS TO PLAN OUR DEFENSE. TIME WAS ONE THING WE NEEDED.

TIME WAS THE ONE THING WE DIDN'T HAVE
WHERRRE IS HE?
COME OUT, KRYPTONIAN! YOUR RAT-HOLE'S BEEN BREACHED! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME NOW!
I'M ALMOST GLAD THAT I DIDN'T MANAGE TO KILL YOU WHEN WE WERE YOUNG... IT MAKES THIS MOMENT ALL THE SWEETER
ARE YOU LISTENING, KRYPTONIAN? CAN YOU HEAR YOUR DEATH BEARING DOWN ON YOU?
DUMTUDDUM
HUBBUB HUBB
WELL? I'M WAITING FOR U...
HM? WHAT'S
THRIDDONG!
RRRRAAAARRRGH!

NO! NO!
AAAAEEEEARRGH! STOP IT GET OFF GET OFF GET OFF!
I'M KILLING YOU, YOU STUPID ANIMAL! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I'M KILLING
YAAAAA
SNORF
"PETE ROSS, LANA, JIMMY NOW KRYPTO WAS GONE AS WELL.
"I WAS WITH SUPERMAN WHEN HE HEARD HIS PET'S DEATH-HOWL BUT WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING
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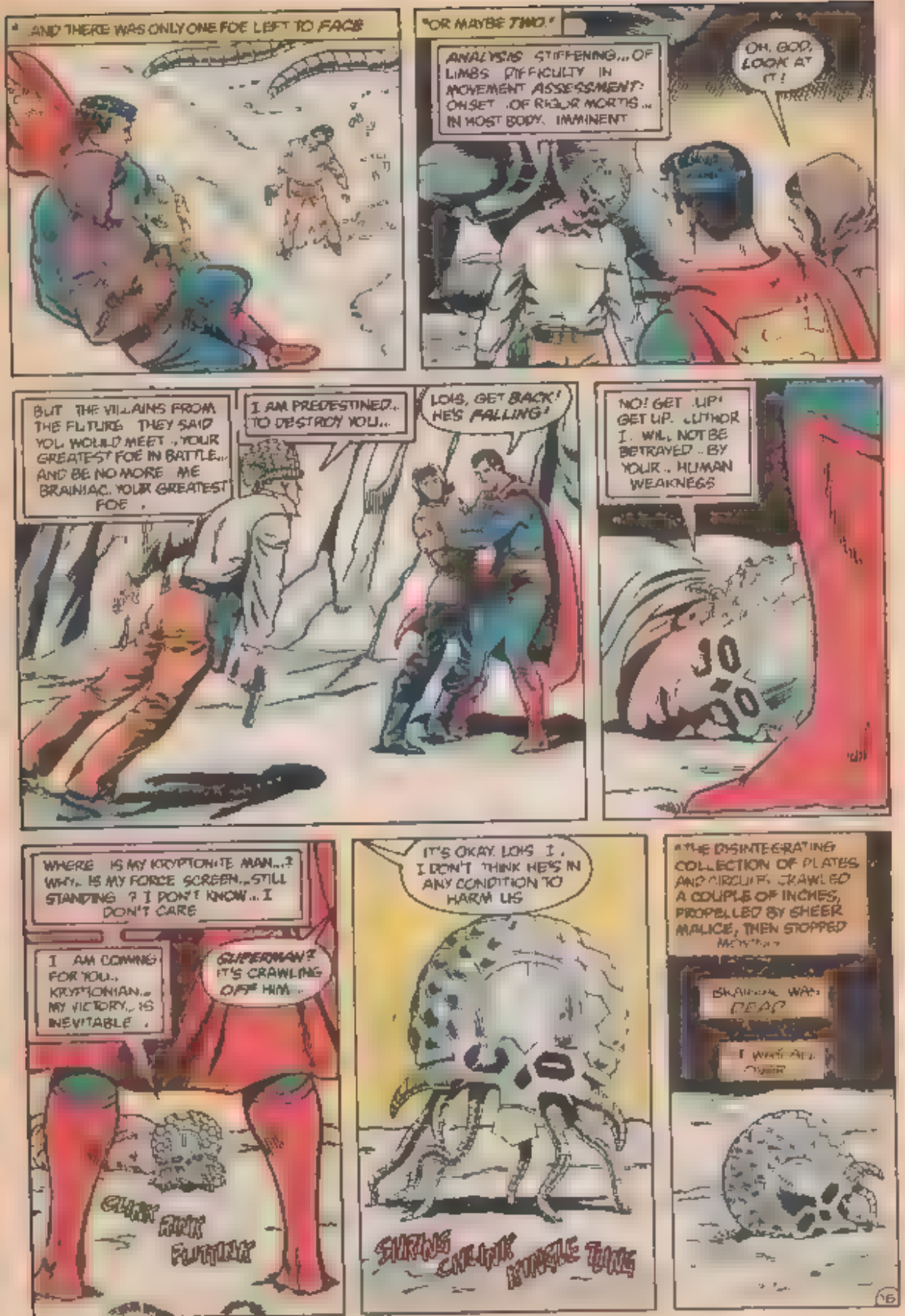
" WE HAD OUR OWN PROBLEMS.
SUPERMAN. WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE LANA AND THE OTHERS?
I... I DON'T KNOW. PERRY AND ALICE AREN'T HURT BUT I CAN'T SEE LANA OR JIMMY ANYWHERE. MAYBE THEY FLED.
OR MAYBE THEY'RE DEAD!
AAA!
HA HA HA HA HA! WANT TO BUY YOURSELF SOME TIME, KRYPTONIAN?
WHY NOT THROW ME THE WOMAN. SO I CAN PRY HER THE WAY I PRIED YOUR OTHER GIRLFRIEND'S
LANA?
YOU HURT LANA?
AAAAA!
HE BURNED ME! HE BURNED ME
HIS MIND... HE ISN'T BLUFFING... HE'S PREPARED TO KILL!
M-MAYBE THIS WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA. FROM OUR LEGENDS I'D EXPECTED A QUICK VICTORY. BUT THIS IS DANGEROUS!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. WE KNOW THAT BRAINIAC WILL WIN... THERE'S NO SENSE GETTING HURT IN THE PROCESS
BY THE TIME HE'D FOUND THEM OUTSIDE, THEIR BUBBLE WAS ALREADY JUMPING BACK TO THE 30TH CENTURY


AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE FOE LEFT TO FACE
"OR MAYBE TWO."
ANALYSIS: STIFFENING... OF LIMBS. DIFFICULTY IN MOVEMENT. ASSESSMENT: ONSET OF RIGOR MORTIS... IN HOST BODY. IMMINENT
OH, GOD, LOOK AT IT!
BUT THE VILLAINS FROM THE FUTURE THEY SAID YOU WOULD MEET, YOUR GREATEST FOE IN BATTLE... AND BE NO MORE. ME BRAINIAC. YOUR GREATEST FOE.
I AM PREDESTINED.. TO DESTROY YOU...
LOIS, GET BACK! HE'S FALLING!
NO! GET UP! GET UP. LUTHOR I. WILL NOT BE BETRAYED.. BY YOUR.. HUMAN WEAKNESS
WHERE IS MY KRYPTONITE MAN...? WHY.. IS MY FORCE SCREEN... STILL STANDING ? I DON'T KNOW.. I DON'T CARE
I AM COMING FOR YOU.. KRYPTONIAN.. MY VICTORY.. IS INEVITABLE.
SUPERMAN? IT'S CRAWLING OFF HIM...
CLICK' RUNK PUTTUNK
IT'S OKAY, LOIS I, I DON'T THINK HE'S IN ANY CONDITION TO HARM US
SKRUNG CHUNK RUMBLE TUNG
THE DISINTEGRATING COLLECTION OF PLATES AND CIRCUITS CRAWLED A COUPLE OF INCHES, PROPELLED BY SHEER MALICE, THEN STOPPED MOVING.
BRAINIAC WAS DEAD
I WAS ALL ALONE
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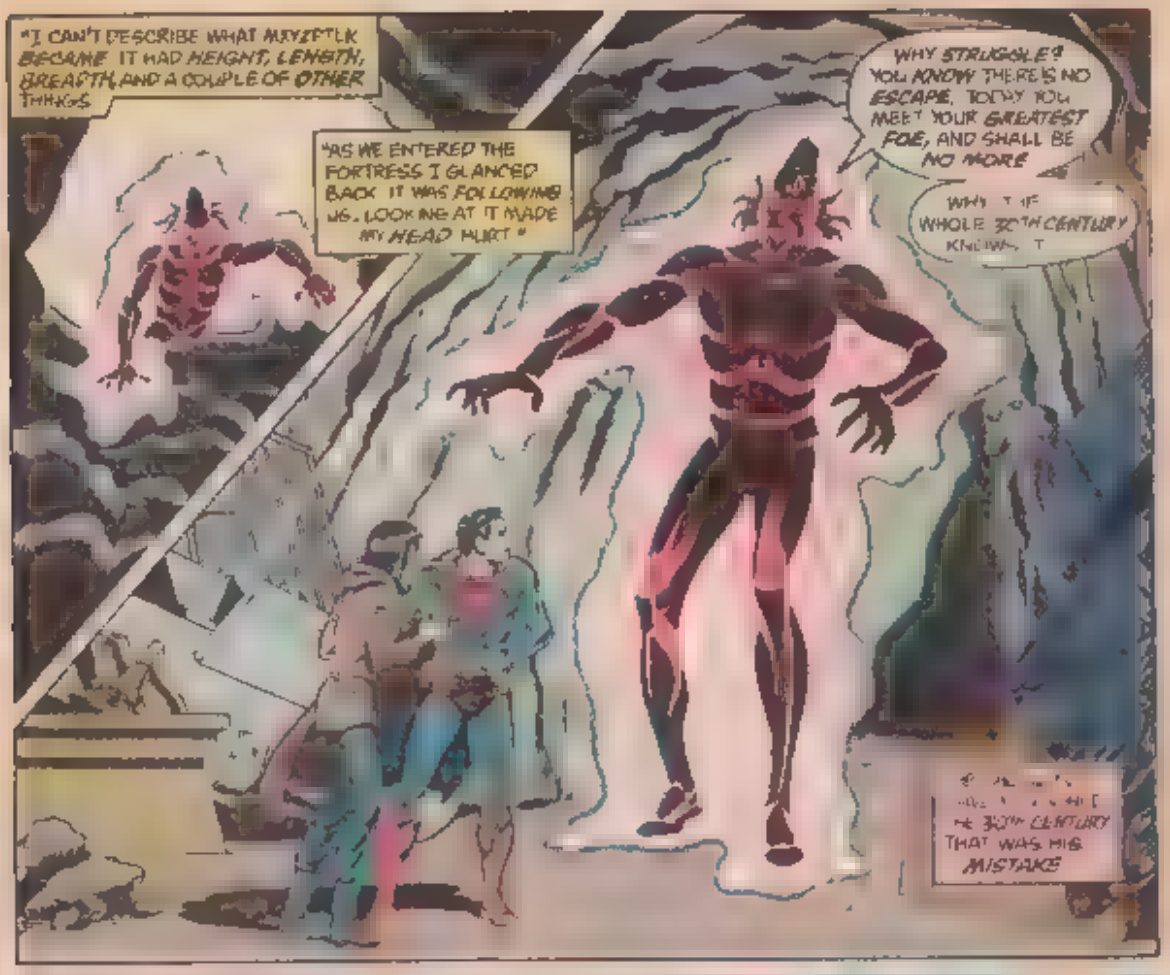
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE FOR TWINS

EXCEPT THAT IT COULDN'T BE
DIS I DON'T LIKE THIS THERE'S TOO MANY LOOSE ENDS
WHY SHOULD ALL MY ENEMIES ATTACK AT ONCE? WHY IS BRAINIAC'S FORCE-SCREEN STILL KEEPING OUR FRIENDS OUT?
AND THEN THERE'D THIS STATUETTE. THE LEGION VISITED LAST NIGHT AND GAVE IT TO ME. ALMOST AS IF THEY WERE GIVING ME MY OWN HEADSTONE AS A GIFT
THE WHOLE 30TH CENTURY SEEMS CERTAIN I'M FINISHED
HE LAPSED INTO SILENCE WHILE HE LOOKED AT THE STATUETTE A GOLDEN FIGURE OF SUPERMAN HOLDING SOMETHING FAMILIAR
EVERYTHING WAS STILL THE KEENING ARCTIC WIND WAS BEING KEPT OUT BY THE FORCE SCREEN.
"HE STOOD LIKE THAT FOR FOUR OR FIVE MINUTES, SILENT AND FROWNING, FIGURING SOMETHING OUT
"WHEN HE SPOKE, EVEN SO SOFTLY, IT STILL MADE ME JUMP"
OF COURSE
KKOOM
BIZARRO, THE PRANKSTER, THE TOYMAN, METALLO, BRAINIAC, THE KRYPTONITE MAN, THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS THERE'S ONLY ONE NAME MISSING, ISN'T THERE?
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, MXYZPTLK!
COME ON OUT AND SHOW YOURSELF
EULUH!

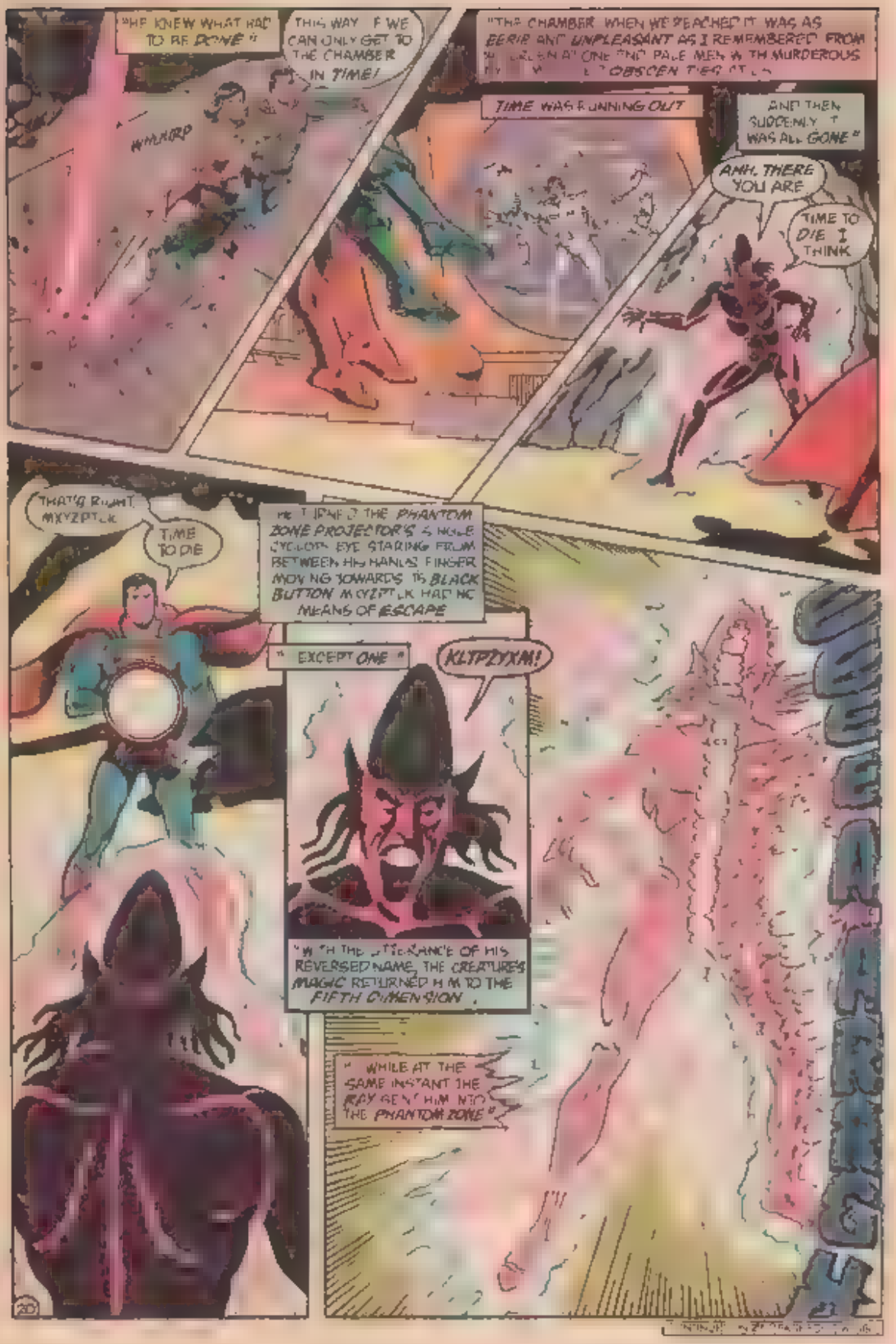
"WHEN THE SMOKE FINALLY CLEARED, HE WAS JUST SITTING THERE, IN THE AIR. HE LOOKED DIFFERENT. SOMEHOW. HE DIDN'T LOOK FUNNY ANYMORE."
SO, YOU FINALLY GUESSED!
GREETINGS, SUPERMAN. GREETINGS FROM THE FIFTH DIMENSION.
YOU WERE GUIDING ALL THIS, FROM BEHIND THE SCENES? ALL THIS KILLING AND DESTRUCTION?
DON'T BE NAIVE, SUPERMAN. I'M AN IMMORTAL, LIKE EVERYONE IN THE FIFTH DIMENSION.
MXYZPTLK, IN RAO'S NAME, WHY?
THE BIG PROBLEM WITH BEING IMMORTAL IS FILLING YOUR TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, I SPENT THE FIRST TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF MY EXISTENCE DOING ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
I DIDN'T MOVE. I DIDN'T EVEN BREATHE.
EVENTUALLY SIMPLE INERTIA BECAME TIRESOME, SO I SPENT THE NEXT TWO THOUSAND YEARS BEING SAINTLY AND BENIGN, DOING ONLY GOOD DEEDS.
WHEN THAT NOVELTY BEGAN TO FADE, I DECIDED TO TRY BEING MISCHIEVOUS.
NOW, TWO THOUSAND YEARS LATER I'M BORED AGAIN. I NEED A CHANGE. STARTING WITH YOUR DEATH, I SHALL SPEND THE NEXT TWO MILLENNIA BEING EVIL!
AFTER THAT WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS I'LL TRY BEING GUILTY FOR A WHILE
DID YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE A FIFTH-DIMENSIONAL SORCERER WOULD RESEMBLE A FUNNY LITTLE MAN IN A DERBY HAT? WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HOW I REALLY LOOK?
SUPERMAN...HE'S CHANGING!
WE'D BETTER GET INSIDE...


"I CAN'T DESCRIBE WHAT MXYZPTLK BECAME IT HAD HEIGHT, LENGTH, BREADTH, AND A COUPLE OF OTHER THINGS
"AS WE ENTERED THE FORTRESS I GLANCED BACK IT WAS FOLLOWING US. LOOKING AT IT MADE MY HEAD HURT."
WHY STRUGGLE? YOU KNOW THERE IS NO ESCAPE. TODAY YOU MEET YOUR GREATEST FOE, AND SHALL BE NO MORE
WHY IF WHOLE 30TH CENTURY KNEW...
HE 30TH CENTURY THAT WAS HIS MISTAKE

"REMINDED, I LOOKED AT THE STATUETTE IN MY HANDS..."
LOIS, HE'S MAGICAL I CAN'T BEAT HIM. RUN! I'LL HOLD HIM OFF AS LONG AS POSSIBLE
NOW WAIT! THIS STATUETTE WHY DID THEY GIVE IT TO YOU?

AS A TRIBUTE ALTHOUGH THEY MUST HAVE KNOWN HOW MUCH IT WOULD DISTURB ME
EXACTLY! SO MAYBE THEY GAVE YOU IT FOR ANOTHER REASON. SOME KIND OF HINT, MAYBE?
TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT IT SUPERMAN!

LOOK AT WHAT IT'S HOLDING!
HIS SUPREME HOUR
"HE LOOKED AT THE GOLDEN FIGURINE, AT THE GOLDEN DEVICE IN ITS HANDS HIS EYES NARROWED EVER SO SLIGHTLY HE KNEW


"HE KNEW WHAT HAD TO BE DONE"
THIS WAY IF WE CAN ONLY GET TO THE CHAMBER IN TIME!
WHOOSH
"THE CHAMBER WHEN WE REACHED IT WAS AS EERIE AND UNPLEASANT AS I REMEMBERED FROM
TIME WAS RUNNING OUT
AND THEN SUDDENLY IT WAS ALL GONE"
AHH, THERE YOU ARE
TIME TO DIE I THINK
THAT'S RIGHT, MXYZPTLK
TIME TO DIE
HE TRIED THE PHANTOM ZONE PROJECTOR'S SINGLE CYCLOPS EYE STARING FROM BETWEEN HIS HANDS. FINGER MOVING TOWARDS THE BLACK BUTTON MXYZPTLK HAD NO MEANS OF ESCAPE
"EXCEPT ONE"
KLTPZYXM!
WITH THE UTTERANCE OF HIS REVERSED NAME, THE CREATURE'S MAGIC RETURNED HIM TO THE FIFTH DIMENSION.
WHILE AT THE SAME INSTANT THE BOY SENT HIM INTO THE PHANTOM ZONE"
UNEARTHLY

THAT TERRIBLE SCREAM. IS HE ?
TORN IN HALF, BETWEEN DIMENSIONS HE PANICKED WHEN HE SAW THE RAY AND MADE A FATAL ERROR JUST AS I KNEW HE WOULD
I KILLED HIM, LOIS I INTENDED TO KILL HIM.
I JUST COULDN'T RISK LETTING ANYTHING THAT POWERFUL AND MALIGNANT SURVIVE, SO I MADE UP MY MIND AND I DID IT.
I BROKE MY OATH. I KILLED HIM.
B-BUT YOU HAD TO YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG
YES. I HAVE
NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO KILL NOT MXYZPTLK, NOT YOU, NOT SUPERMAN
ESPECIALLY NOT SUPERMAN.
COMPLETE SILENCE I GAVE AFTER HIM
UN REP.
AND BY THE TIME I REALIZED WHAT HE WAS DOING, IT WAS TOO LATE
GOLD KRYPTONITE SAMPLE STORAGE CHAMBER
KEEP OUT!
AS HE WALKED INTO THE BLINDING GOLDEN LIGHT HE TURNED, AND LOOKED BACK OVER HIS SHOULDER HE SMILED AT ME.
I NEVER SAW SUPERMAN AGAIN.

"WITH MOCTEZUMA'S DESTRUCTION, THE FORCE-SCREEN HIS MAGIC HAD BEEN MAINTAINING VANISHED AND THE HEROES OUTSIDE WERE FREE TO ENTER.
"YOU PROBABLY READ ABOUT WHAT THEY FOUND...
"THE WRECKAGE IN AND AROUND THE FORTRESS SEEMED TO BE STREWN WITH BODIES. THOSE OF HIS MOST BITTER ENEMIES...
"...AND THOSE OF HIS MOST LOYAL FRIENDS. I REMEMBER THE BATMAN DESCRIBING IT AS 'LIKE WALKING AMONGST THE FRAGMENTS OF A LEGEND.'
"DEATH AND DESTRUCTION WERE EVERYWHERE...
"...ALMOST.
"ALMOST EVERYWHERE.
"THEY FOUND ME OUTSIDE THE LOCKED GOLD KRYPTONITE CHAMBER, WEEPING. WHEN SUPERWOMAN AND CAPTAIN MARVEL RIPPED THE VAULT OPEN, IT WAS EMPTY.
"HE WAS GONE!"
THEY DISCOVERED A HIDDEN PASSAGEWAY, LEADING OUT OF THE FORTRESS, AND IT WAS FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT HE'D WALKED OUT POWERLESS INTO THE SUB-ZERO WASTES TO FREEZE.
THEY NEVER FOUND HIS BODY.
MORE COFFEE, TIM?

UH, NO, IT'S GETTING PRETTY LATE AND I THINK THE INTERVIEW'S ALMOST THROUGH.
TELL ME, MRS. ELLIOT, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE RUMORS THAT SUPERMAN IS STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE?
WELL, I'M SURE A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT...
...BUT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, SUPERMAN DIED IN THE ARCTIC.
I WAS THERE.
OF COURSE. I--I'M SORRY IF THAT LAST QUESTION WAS TACTLESS. YOU JUST HEAR A LOT OF TALK...
I GUESS IT'S THE SAME AS WITH JIM MORRISON OR BRUCE LEE, ALL THOSE OLD RUMORS...
HEEEEERE'S JOHNNY!
WHAT...? OH! JONATHAN... YOU'RE AWAKE! HAVE YOU GOT A KISS FOR MOMMY?
A BAH!
UH, WELL, LISTEN, I OUGHT TO BE GOING. I'LL SEND YOU A COPY OF THE INTERVIEW TO CHECK ONCE I'VE TRANSCRIBED IT.
WELL, IF YOU GET TIME, I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE. GIVE MY LOVE TO THE PLANET.
I WILL. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, MRS. ELLIOT. YOU TOO, MR. ELLIOT. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
'BYE, FELLA. NICE MEETIN' YA.
DAH!
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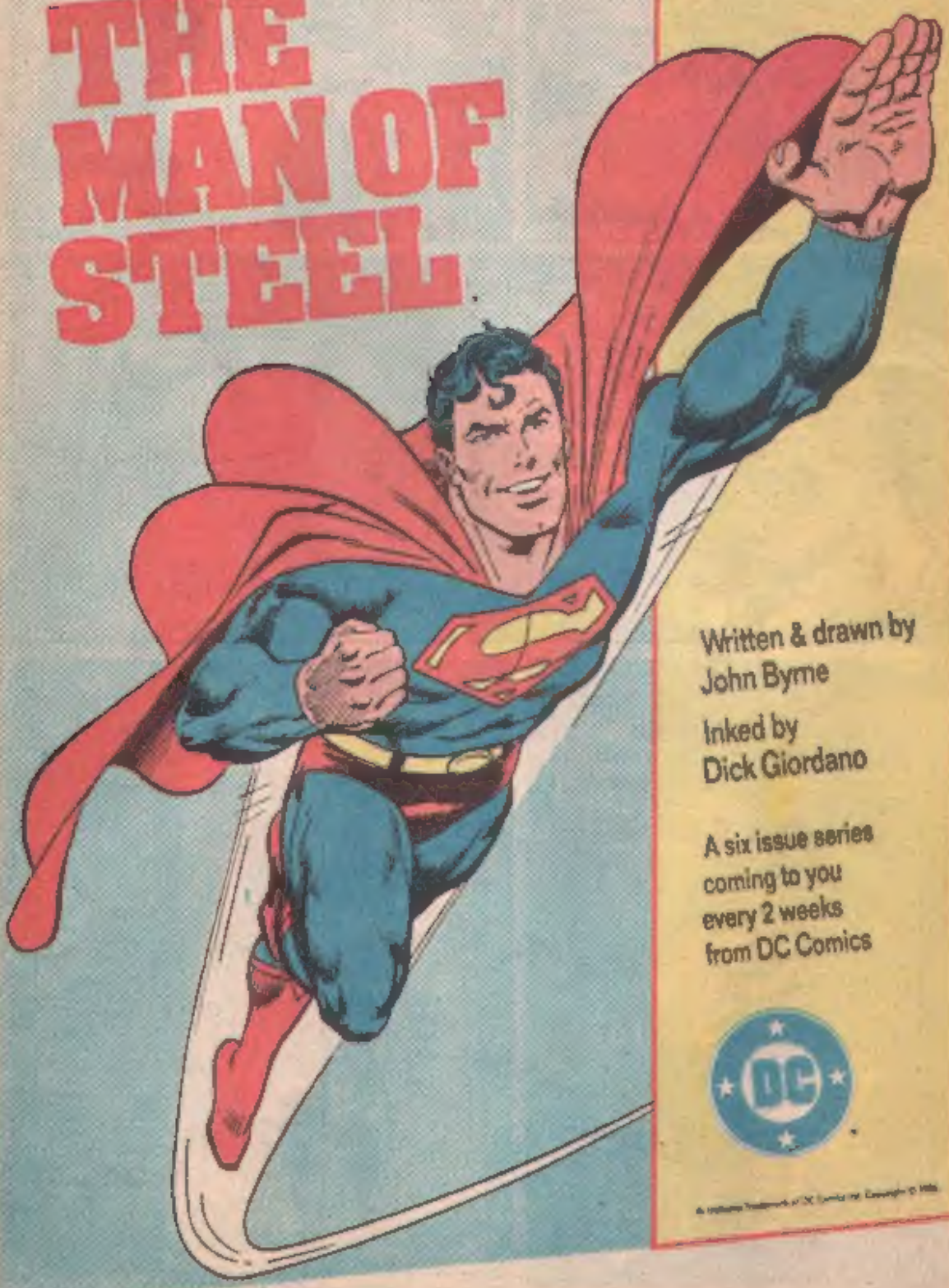
WELL, HE'S GONE. I GUESS THE MEDIA WON'T BE BOTHERING US FOR ANOTHER TEN YEARS NOW.
LET'S HOPE SO.
DOWN YOU GO, JONATHAN. YOU PLAY FOR A WHILE.
SO, HOW WAS WORK TODAY?
GREAT. OLD DAN HOOSE BROUGHT IN SOME SNAPSHOTS OF HIS GRAND-CHILDREN, AND WE'RE WORKING ON THIS OLD '48 BUICK AT THE MOMENT, TRYING TO GET HER WORKING.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.
YOU REALLY LOVE IT, DON'T YOU? JUST GOING TO WORK EVERY DAY, TAKING OUT THE GARBAGE, CHANGING JONATHAN'S DIAPERS... ALL THIS NORMAL STUFF.
YUP. CAN'T BEAT IT... ALTHOUGH MAYBE I COULD LIVE WITHOUT THE DIAPERS.
HMMM. YOU KNOW, YOU WERE PRETTY HARD ON SUPERMAN EARLIER.
SUPERMAN? HE WAS OVER-RATED, AND TOO WRAPPED UP IN HIMSELF. HE THOUGHT THE WORLD COULDN'T GET ALONG WITH-OUT HIM.
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
PIZZA. AFTER THAT, IF JONATHAN'S QUIET, I THOUGHT MAYBE BED WITH A BOTTLE OF WINE, AND AFTER THAT, I FIGURE WE JUST LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
LOIS, MY LOVE...
SOUND GOOD TO YOU?
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
The End

THE MAN OF STEEL



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